

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application of :	Rolf GÖTZ, et al
Priority Date :	January 10, 2001
Title of the Invention :	DEVICE FOR ADJUSTING THE LENGTH OF A STOP MEANS DESIGNED ...

PRELIMINARY  
AMENDMENT

Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, after the title, please insert --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 1, before the paragraph which begins with "The object of the invention," please insert --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 5, before the second paragraph, which begins with "Additional advantageous," please insert --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 5, before the paragraph, which begins with "The device 1," please insert --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 3-12 and 15 to remove multiple dependencies as follows. A "marked-up" version of the amended claims is enclosed herewith in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121 (c)(1).

--3. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the projections (3, 4) have bugles or recesses that guide the stop means (A).

--4. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the projections (3, 4) exhibit markings (6, 7) that denote a critical angle of the segments (A11, A12) of the stop means (A) running away from the respective projection (3, 4).

--5. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the projections (3, 4) essentially arranged in a shared horizontal plane in the operating position of the device (1).

--6. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier part (2) carries a deflection element (10, 11) in the area between the projections (3, 4) for deflecting an additional segment )Av) of the stop means (A).

--7. (Amended) Device according to claim 5, characterized in that the force-absorbing surface over which the deflection element (10, 11) is attached to the carrier part (2) is located in a plane situated above the projections (V1, V2) in the operating position of the device (1).

--8. (Amended) Device according to claim 6, characterized in that the deflection element (10, 11) and the projections (V1, V2) are arranged symmetrically to the middle axis (M) of the carrier part (2), which is vertically aligned in the operating position.

--9. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier part (2) has an opening (8) through which a loop segment (As) of the stop means (A) can be guided.

--10. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the deflection element (10) is pivoted in an opening of the carrier part (2).

--11. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the deflection element (11) is designed as a hook rigidly connected with the carrier part (2).

--12. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that it is fabricated as a single piece via forging.

--15. (Amended) Device according to claim 13, characterized in that the carrier part (2) has an opening (8) through which a loop segment (As) of the stop means (A) is routed, over which the segments (A11, A12) of the stop means (A) that link the load (L1, L2) with the lifting device (H) are coupled with the lifting device (H).

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please delete the last line, which begins with "Fig. 2 is intended."

**REMARKS**

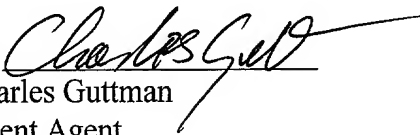
Amendments are being made to claims 3-12 and 15 to remove their multiple dependencies.

Please proceed to examine the application as amended herein.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Date: January 8, 2002

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**Amended Claims - Marked-Up Version**

--3. (Amended) Device according to claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that the projections (3, 4) have bugles or recesses that guide the stop means (A).

--4. (Amended) Device according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the projections (3, 4) exhibit markings (6, 7) that denote a critical angle of the segment (A11, A12) of the stop means (A) running away from the respective projection (3, 4).

--5. (Amended) Device according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the projections (3, 4) are essentially arranged in a shared horizontal plane in the operating position of the device (1).

--6. (Amended) Device according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the carrier part (2) carries a deflection element (10, 11) in the area between the projections (3, 4) for deflecting an additional segment (Av) of the stop means (A).

--7. (Amended) Device according to claim 5 [and 6], characterized in that the force-absorbing surface over which the deflection element (10, 11) is attached to the carrier part (2) is located in a plane situated above the projections (V1, V2) in the operating position of the device (1).

--8. (Amended) Device according to claim 6 [or 7], characterized in that the deflection element (10, 11) and the projections (V1, V2) are arranged symmetrically to the middle axis (M) of the carrier part (2), which is vertically aligned in the operating position.

--9. (Amended) Device according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the carrier part (2) has an opening (8) through which a loop segment (As) of the stop means (A) can be guided.

--10. (Amended) Device according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the deflection element (10) is pivoted in an opening of the carrier part (2).

--11. (Amended) Device according to [one of the claims 1 to 9] claim 1, characterized in that the deflection element (11) is designed as a hook rigidly connected with the carrier part (2).

--12. (Amended) Device according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that it is fabricated as a single piece via forging.

--15. (Amended) Device according to claim 13 [or 14], characterized in that the carrier part (2) has an opening (8) through which a loop segment (As) of the stop means (A) is routed, over which the segments (A11, A12) of the stop means (A) that link the load (L1, L2) with the lifting device (H) are coupled with the lifting device (H).